



THE BARREN

Fig Tree

Were they
worse
sinners
than you?



8:30

9:45

11:00

Prelude

Confession & Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
C: Amen

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the Christ.

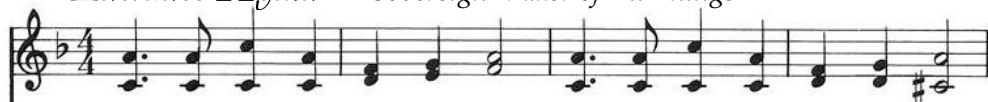
A: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

A: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.
C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:
C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a life obedient to your will and your way.

P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn *Sovereign Maker of All Things*



1. Sov'-reign Ma - ker of all things, God of cov - e - nant and grace,
2. You have prom-ised to for - give con - trite sin - ners who re - pent;
3. Let me not be lost in sin, ban - ished to e - ter - nal night;



ev - ery crea - ture knows your power, quakes with fear be - fore your face.
so I come with hum - bled heart, by your word made con - fi - dent.
God who hears the pen - i - tent, let your good - ness show your might.



But your mer - cy far ex - ceeds what our minds can com - pre - hend;
I have sinned, Lord, I have sinned: well I know my wick - ed - ness.
Though I be un - wor - thy, Lord, your great mer - cy will I claim,



deep com - pas - sion stays your hand, chasten - ing not, though we of - fend.
Yet I make this prayer to you: Lord, for - give me, heal and bless.
till I join the hosts a - bove who for - ev - er praise your name.



Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

Kyrie

ELW Setting 2

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 2



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Heavenly Father, through the gift of your Son you teach us the meaning and value of grace, for, in obedience to your plan for us, he humbly gave himself for our faults and failures. Soften our self-righteousness sense of "justice" and protectionism, that as we have been forgiven beyond what is "just" and "safe," we will see the value and meaning of following the example of Jesus, our Lord and our Savior. Amen.

First Lesson

Genesis 3

After Eve and Adam disobey God by eating of the fruit of "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," God explained to them the result of their sin, saying: "Adam, because you have listened to the voice of your wife, Eve, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You will not eat of it,' cursed is the soil because of you; with toil and pain you will eat from it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it will sprout for you; and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken - you are dust, and to dust you will return."

Reader: The Word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm

32

*Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

*While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

*Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;*

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

*Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
will not reach them.*

**You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

*I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.*

**Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or else it will not stay near you.**

*Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.*

**Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

Second Lesson

1 John 1:5-2:2

This is the message we have heard from the Christ and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and God's word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone

does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus, the Christ, the Righteous; and this Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins - and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Verse S 124

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 13

But in that very critical time there were some present who were informing Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus responded to them saying, "Do you think, therefore, that these Galileans were more sinful than all other Galileans because they suffer? 'No,' I say to you. But, if you may not repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower of Siloam fell and killed them - do you think that they were worse debtors than all the others inhabiting Jerusalem? 'No,' I say to you. But if you may not repent, you all likewise will perish."

Then he told this parable: "Someone had a fig tree growing in his vineyard and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.

But he said to the viticulturist, 'Behold! For three years I have come seeking fruit in this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it off! For what reason does it waste the land?

But the viticulturist responded, saying, 'Lord, forgive it for this year - until I may dig around it and may throw manure on it - perhaps it may produce fruit in the coming season, but if not, indeed, you will cut it off.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord! **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon & Hymn of the Day *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* **587**



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty.
in his blood.
ful - ly kind.
through the fall.

There is no place where earth's sor - rows
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands
But we make this love too nar - row
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place
of new worlds as great as this; there is room for
by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -
let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings
fresh cre - a - tions
fy its strict - ness
be thanks-giv - ing

have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
in that up - per home of bliss.
with a zeal God will not own.
for the good - ness of the Lord.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers & Passing of the Peace

Offering / Offertory

182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

A: Let us Pray

C: Living God, we praise you for the abundant blessings of this life. In humble recognition of the love you always show to us, we bring these gifts and ourselves as our thanks. Use them and us to bear the fruit of goodness and grace so that your glory will be known to all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting 2

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed . . .

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory now and forever. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

592, 588

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Benediction & Recessional *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* **597**

1 My hope is built on nothing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Postlude & Dismissal

Flowers are placed on the altar by Nedra Thomas in loving memory of her mother. Flowers are also placed by Margaret Swift in loving memory of her husband Bill on their 65th anniversary of their wedding day.

Grace celebrates the taking of their First Communion by Caroline Tillson and Luca Colagiovanni. While Lutherans do not recognize the “making of First Communion” as a separate sacrament as in the Roman Catholic Church, the Eucharist is one of the two Lutheran Sacraments. Also, since receiving the sacrament is a response to Christ’s invitation to come to His table, our specific sect of Lutheranism does not actually require those coming to the Table to have reached any particular level of understanding or heightened state of righteousness. Therefore, we commune infants and the unrepentant who come seeking Christ’s grace and reconciliation at His Table. However, out of our deep respect and solemn honoring of the gift Christ offers us in the Eucharist, we come to Him with our cleanest hearts, deepest understandings and earnest love for our fellow diners. Here at Grace, we usually prepare ourselves with Confession & Forgiveness; education in Sunday School, First Communion Class and Confirmation; and the Passing of the Peace.



Sunday, August 17

First Communion

Deadline to RSVP for August Dining Out

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Outdoor worship in the memorial garden

11:00 a.m. Worship

Summer fellowship in the narthex after each service

Wednesday, August 20

Last day to donate school supplies

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting Group

Thursday, August 21

5:00 p.m. Grace Dining Out at Char Steakhouse

Sunday, August 24

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Outdoor worship in the memorial garden

11:00 a.m. Worship

Summer fellowship in the narthex after each service



SUNDAY SCHOOL

BEGINS!



Sunday School Opening

Sunday 9/7 @ 9:45

To Learn More
To Sing To Pray Together



CONFIRMATION

7TH & 8TH GRADES

Weekly Classes Begin

Sunday Sept 7 @ 9:45 am *or*
Tuesday Sept 9 @ 4:30 pm




Bible Study

Tuesdays

@ Grace

6:30 a.m.
In-person
Breakfast & Bible Study

11:00 a.m.
Online & In-person

3:30 p.m.
Online & In-Person

7:00 p.m.
Online

All Studies Begin September 9th!